

Item name: Sproules Lagoon

Location:

Temora

Address:

Planning: Southern & Western

Suburb/nearest town: Temora 2666

Local govt area: Temora

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Address:

Planning: Southern & Western

Suburb/nearest town: Temora 2666

Local govt area: Temora

Parish:

State: NSW

County:

Other/former names:

Area/group/complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal area: Wiradjuri

Curtilage/boundary:

Item type: Landscape

Group: Exploration, Survey and Even **Category:** Massacre/battle site

Owner:

Admin codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current use:

Former uses:

Assessed significance: State

Endorsed significance:

Statement of significance: Historically significant as the site of early aboriginal occupation, the home of Mrs Sproule, one of the first owners of the original "Temora Run" and the site in 1862 of the "Battle of the Bland", the shoot-out between Sir Frederick Pottinger and Gardiner's bushranger gang following the Eugowra Gold Robbery.

Historical notes of provenance: The "Battle of the Bland". At this site on 8th July, 1862, the "Battle of the Bland" took place between Gardiner's bushranger gang and the law; Police Inspector Sir Frederick Pottinger, Det. Patrick Lyons and Richard Mitchell, Clerk of Petty Sessions, Condoblin. The battle followed the capture on the previous day of bushrangers Johnny Gilbert, Charlie Gilbert and Henry Manns near Mrs Hardy's "Ariah" station homestead at Beckom. The bushrangers were returning from the border area along the Great Western Stock Route after trying to cash gold stolen in the Eugowra Rocks gold robbery. At that time this was the largest gold robbery in Australia's history. Johnny Gilbert avoided capture and rode over 70 miles in 10 hours to alert members of the Gardiner gang hiding in the Weddin Ranges. Pottinger, Lyons, Mitchell, the two prisoners and a pack horse carrying the gold, overnighted at "Quandary" homestead with George Harmon. The next morning as they approached Mrs Sproule's homestead, they ran into an ambush. In the shoot-out, which lasted between ten and fifteen minutes, Lyons was thrown from his wounded horse, the prisoners escaped, and Pottinger retreated 12 miles westward to "Quandary" for more ammunition and assistance. On his return he found Lyons unharmed, but the bushrangers had fled. Pottinger had captured 213 oz. of gold, which with the help of an armed guard, he returned to Forbes, arriving to a hero's welcome on 14th July, 1862. (Text on history panel at the site). The site, situated on part of the Great Western Stock Route, beside the Wolladilly Creek and the home of Mrs Frances Sproule, was also a part of the western access route for the earlier Aboriginal people who would have followed the water course. They would have accessed this near its eastern end where it became a tributary to the Trigalong and Narraburra Creeks, feeding to the Lake Cowal area. Following it westwards, they would have come to its source near the current (2006) Temora- Barmedman Road. Continuing over the road site, they would then have picked up the source of the Mirrool Creek close by, and been able to follow it into the western country. They could also have followed the same course eastwards from the west. As the flow of both creeks is intermittent, they could only have done this in good seasons when water was available, particularly in the Mirrool, however, at this site, the "lagoon" was one of the best waterholes along this route, being around 20 ft. deep, and the water almost permanent.

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Themes:	National theme	State theme	Local theme
	9. Phases of Life	Events	
	3. Economy	Pastoralism	

Designer:

Builder:

Year started: **Year completed:** **Circa:** No

Physical description: The vegetation environment retains the setting of the silted creek and the mature gums.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition:

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates:

Recommended management: Vegetation Protection, fencing and interpretive signage. The Heritage Committee CBHS is working group with Ric Carter to pursue a three stage plan to protect and conserve the historic significance:

- * Identify the significance through nomination of the site as part of the CBHS and notify Council and Department of Lands (Wagga Wagga) formerly;
- * Develop a plan and budget for protection and conservation incorporating:
 - 12m x 12m post and rail space accommodating simple seating and interpretive panels illustrating the sites, history and events;
 - Street sign off highway;
 - Track relocation towards western fence for site protection;
- * A plan and budget for site fencing a rectangle approximately 30 west of Wolladilly Creek bank and 160m in length with standard star picket and wire to identify and protect the historic site and permit appropriate revegetation. The area will be sufficient to allow full access without impeding progress by stock when required. Additional works to include
 - Clearance of windfall tree debris from the watercourse to suitable locations beneath the significant trees;
 - Minor reinforcement and stabilisation of the creek banks, using stakes, brush and creekbed silt, which have been damaged and eroded by stock access;
 - Revegetation of the three major local species in the vicinity of the main tree groupings and natural surface drainage lines.

Management:	Management category	Management name
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Further comments: The site of the bushranger battle has been identified in accordance with a range of historical, local knowledge and archaeological evidence. The site is within the stock route reservation. The site has historic-association, social-community esteem and natural/landscap significance-River red gums: camaldulensis "Sproule"/and the water course. Additional research is required to clarify the aboriginal use of the lagoon and the associated camping/wintering grounds in the hills and near Coolamon, sufficient to incorporate into the historic interpretation narrative.

Criteria a): A site of an important event prior to the settlement of Temora, the shooting battle between Bushrangers and the Police.
[Historical significance]

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Criteria b):
[Historical
association
significance]**Criteria c):** The vegetation environment retains the setting of the silled creek and the mature gums. Protection will prevent further decay.
[Aesthetic/
Technical
significance]**Criteria d):** The site is held in high esteem to the community, historical society and historical researchers of Bushranger History.
[Social/Cultural
significance]**Criteria e):** Potential for further research of the Battle Site and Building Site.
[Research
significance]**Criteria f):**
[Rarity]**Criteria g):** The site marks a typical example of Battles between Bushrangers and Police during the gold years of Colonial Australia
[Representative]**Intactness/Integrity:** The creek bed and environs retain the profile of the early crossing and building foundations

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Webster.	The First Fifty years of Temora.	
	Bert Donaldson, Temora		2004

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
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Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
	CROWN LAND				

Latitude:**Longitude:****Location validity:****Spatial accuracy:****Map name:****Map scale:****AMG zone:** **Easting:** 547634 **Northing:** 6196655

Listing:	Name	Title	Number	ListingDate
		Heritage study		

Data entry: Data first entered: 26/03/2004 Data updated: 27/09/2017 Status: Completed